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## Packaging — Vocabulary

*Emballages — Vocabulaire*

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# Contents

Page

Foreword .....	iv
Introduction.....	v
1 Scope.....	1
2 Terms and definitions .....	1
2.1 Basic terms .....	1
2.2 General terms.....	2
2.3 Types of packaging .....	4
2.4 Packaging materials .....	7
2.5 Auxiliary terms in use with packaging .....	7
2.6 Terms in use with packaging and the environment.....	10
2.7 Terms adopted from vocabulary standards of other Technical Committees .....	13
Annex A (informative) Further terms used in relation to materials used in packaging.....	16
A.1 Paper and board .....	16
A.2 Plastics .....	17
A.3 Tin plate .....	17
A.4 Tin mill black plate.....	17
A.5 Electrolytic chromium/chromium oxide coated steel .....	17
Bibliography.....	18
Alphabetical index.....	20

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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 21067 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 122, *Packaging*.

Annex A of this International Standard is for information only.

— **Annex A**, *Further terms used in relation to materials used in packaging*

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## Introduction

This vocabulary was compiled from various sources, including the following:

- American National Standards Institute (ANSI)
- ASTM International (ASTM D 996)
- Australian Standards (AS 2400)
- British Standards Institution (BS 3130-1)
- Deutsches Institut für Normung (DIN 55405)
- European Packaging Federation (EPF)
- South African Bureau of Standards (SABS)
- NATO STANAG 4279 (AAP-23)
- UN/ECE Recommendation No. 21

This International Standard is intended to be used as a source document within the global community. This inventory of terms will be useful in a multilingual thesaurus showing concept relationships as well as terms in other languages. Work on this proposed standard, begun in 1987, has been under convenorship of ANSI since 1995 as ISO/TC 122, Working Group 5, *Terminology and vocabulary*.

This International Standard does not cover environmental statements referring to packaging. These are covered by ISO 14021.

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# Packaging — Vocabulary

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies preferred terms and definitions related to packaging and materials handling, for use in international commerce, except for dangerous goods packaging where terms and definitions are given in the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods.

This International Standard is augmented by the packaging specific standards

ISO 6590-1, *Packaging — Sacks — Vocabulary and types — Part 1: Paper sacks*

ISO 6590-2, *Packaging — Sacks — Vocabulary and types — Part 2: Sacks made from thermoplastic flexible film*

ISO 15867, *Intermediate bulk containers (IBCs) for non-dangerous goods — Terminology*

## 2 Terms and definitions

### 2.1 Basic terms

#### 2.1.1 packaging

(product) any product to be used for the containment, protection, handling, delivery, storage, transport and presentation of goods, from raw materials to processed goods, from the producer to the user or consumer, including processor, assembler or other intermediary

#### 2.1.2 packaging

(operation) operations involved in the preparation of goods for containment, protection, handling, delivery, storage, transport and presentation of goods, from raw materials to processed goods, from the producer to the user or consumer

NOTE The term includes preservation, packing, marking and unitization.

#### 2.1.3

**pack**, noun

**package**, noun

**product package**

packaging (2.1.1) and its contents

#### 2.1.4

**pack**, verb

**package**, verb

create a package (2.1.3)

#### 2.1.5

**article**

an item or commodity

## 2.2 General terms

### 2.2.1

#### **container**

(for packaging) any box or receptacle which holds, restrains, or encloses any article(s) (2.1.5) to be stored or transported

### 2.2.2

#### **shipping container**

(for transport) article of transport equipment strong enough to be suitable for repeated use and specially designed to facilitate the carriage of goods by one or more means of transport without breakage of load

NOTE 1 Adapted from RID/ADR regulations <sup>[27], [28]</sup>

NOTE 2 The phrase "without breakage of load" means that the container is handled as a single unit during transit.

NOTE 3 The term "container" is often used as a non-specific term for a receptacle (see 2.2.1).

NOTE 4 For full definition of freight container, see ISO 830

### 2.2.3

#### **primary packaging**

packaging (2.1.1) designed to come into direct contact with the product

### 2.2.4

#### **secondary packaging**

packaging (2.1.1) designed to contain one or more primary packagings together with any protective materials where required

### 2.2.5

#### **inner packaging**

packaging (2.1.1) for which an over packaging is required for transport

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[SOURCE: ISO 16883:2007, §3.4]

### 2.2.6

#### **distribution packaging**

#### **transport packaging**

#### **tertiary packaging**

packaging (2.1.1) designed to contain one or more articles or packages, or bulk material, for the purposes of transport, handling and/or distribution

### 2.2.7

#### **consumer packaging**

#### **retail packaging**

#### **sales packaging**

packaging (2.1.1) constituting, with its contents, a sales unit for the final user or consumer at the point of retail

### 2.2.8

#### **industrial packaging**

packaging (2.1.1) for raw materials, components and partially manufactured or finished goods, for distribution from manufacturer to manufacturer and/or other intermediaries such as processor or assembler

### 2.2.9

#### **commercial packaging**

methods and materials used by a supplier to satisfy the requirements of the distribution system

NOTE Commercial packaging includes industrial packaging, and consumer packaging; and may be applicable for certain levels of military packaging.



**2.2.10****bulk packaging**

packaging (2.1.1) intended to contain loose articles, large masses of solids or granular materials, or liquids for transport or storage

**2.2.11****child-resistant packaging**

package (2.1.3) consisting of a container and appropriate closure which is difficult for young children under the age of fifty-two months to open (or gain access to the contents), but which is not difficult for adults to use properly

[SOURCE: ISO 8317:2003, §2.3]

**2.2.12****reclosable package**

package (2.1.3) which, after it has been initially opened, is capable of being reclosed with a similar degree of security and is capable of being used a sufficient number of times to dispense the total contents without loss of security

[SOURCE: ISO 8317:2003, §2.4]

**2.2.13****base pack  
unit pack**

smallest package (2.1.3) with identical or different products that are to be supplied at the same time

**2.2.14****commercial package**

packaging (2.1.1) which, as far as quantity of content, type, quality or design of the package are concerned, conforms to the requirements of the respective level of trading

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**2.2.15****consolidated pack**

more than one package grouped together to facilitate handling operations

**2.2.16****containerization**

shipping method in which goods are loaded together in one container (2.2.2)

**2.2.17****overpack  
over packaging**

enclosure generally used by a single consignor to contain one or more packages consolidated into a single unit to facilitate easy handling and stowage during transport

NOTE 1 Adapted from United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods <sup>[29]</sup>

NOTE 2 In English, the same term is also used to describe the use of excessive packaging.

**2.2.18****packaging chain**

sector of the overall economy involving all economic operators concerned with the packaging and/or distribution of goods

**2.2.19****flexible packaging**

packaging whose shape is likely to change after the contents are added or removed

**2.2.20****rigid packaging**

packaging whose shape remains essentially unchanged after the contents are added or removed

**2.2.21****packaging component**

part of packaging that can be separated by hand or by using simple physical means

[SOURCE: ISO 18601:2013, §3.11]

c.f. – component packaging (2.2.23)

**2.2.22****component**

part, assembly or raw material that is a constituent of a higher-level assembly

[SOURCE: ISO 22742:2010, §3.3]

**2.2.23****component packaging**

commercial unit of **components** (3.22) defined by the supplier, including, if applicable, their means for protection, structured alignment, or automated assembly

NOTE Component packaging can include: leaded components taped on reels or in ammo boxes according to IEC 60286-1 and IEC 60286-2; surface mount devices (surface mount components), taped on reels according to IEC 60286-3 and in bulk case IEC 60286-6; integrated circuits (ICs) in stick magazines according to IEC 60286-4; or in matrix trays according to IEC 60286-5. Compare **product package** (2.1.3).

[SOURCE: ISO 22742:2010, §3.3]

**2.2.24****packaging constituent**

part from which packaging are made and which cannot be separated by hand or by using simple physical means

[SOURCE: ISO 18601:2013, §3.12]

**2.2.25****supplier**

<packaging and the environment> entity responsible for placing packaging or packaged goods on the market

c.f. §2.2.26

NOTE The term “supplier” in normal usage can relate to various points in a supply change.

[SOURCE: ISO 18601:2013, §3.22]

**2.2.26****supplier**

party that produces, provides or furnishes an item or service

[SOURCE: ISO 22742:2010, §3.39]

**2.3 Types of packaging****2.3.1****bag**

flexible packaging of single or multiple layers or plies, generally enclosed on all sides except one, forming an opening that may or may not be sealed after filling

**2.3.2****sack**

bag (2.3.1)

NOTE "Bag" is also defined in other International Standards as "sack".

**2.3.3****bale**

shaped unit of compressed articles or materials bound with cord, strapping or metal ties under tension

NOTE 1 It may also be wrapped.

NOTE 2 Adapted from NATO glossary of packaging terms and definitions <sup>[26]</sup>.

**2.3.4****barrel****cask****keg**

packaging of circular cross-section, with greater length than breadth, with convex sides and two flat ends of equal diameter

NOTE A barrel is normally made of wooden staves bound together with hoops.

**2.3.5****bottle**

rigid packaging, typically of glass or plastic, having a comparatively narrow neck or mouth, with a closure and usually no handle

**2.3.6****jar**

small rigid packaging of glass, plastic or earthenware, with a wide mouth

**2.3.7****ampoule**

packaging capable of being hermetically sealed, intended to hold sterile materials

**2.3.8****box**

rigid packaging with rectangular or polygonal sides, usually completely enclosing the contents

NOTE The sides may contain apertures for handling or ventilation.

**2.3.9****carton**

folding collapsible packaging generally made from boxboard

NOTE Although this term is in general use in English, it might not have an equivalent term in other languages.

**2.3.10****case**

non-specific term for transport packaging, often used to refer to a box

**2.3.11****crate**

transport packaging with incomplete surfaces

**2.3.12****wirebound box**

box whose parts are reinforced and connected to each other by means of tempered wires